Economics 285
Introduction to Political Economy
Professor: Justin A. Elardo
Summer 2012

Course Days and Time: MW 8:30am – 10:50am

Classroom: Terrell Hall (TH 122)
CRN: 34443
Credits: 4

Office Hours: Wednesday 11am - Noon
Also By Appointment
Terrell Hall 231

Phone and Email: Extension #5220
justin.elardo@pcc.edu

Recommended Prerequisites: MTH 95 (Intermediate Algebra 4). WR 115 (Introductory to Expository Writing 4)


Course Catalog Description: Examines the United States economy from a systems/institutional perspective. With this approach, students will explore the key institutions that make up the U.S. economy including corporations, government, the market system, labor unions, monetary and financial institutions, and others. Students will also examine three problem areas: environmental degradation and resource depletion; social and political inequality; and economic instability. Also introduces possible solutions based on institutional change and development. Students will deepen their understanding of capitalism in America, as well as gain insights into developing viable economic alternatives based on principles of environmental sustainability, equity and economic stability

Instructional Approach: Economics is a decidedly theoretical discipline, requiring conceptual, analytical, and critical thought. In an effort to best convey the theoretical ideas embedded within economics course content, this course is centered around written, verbal, and graphical depictions (including the significant application of anecdotes). Ideally, students will have the opportunity to be actively involved in the learning process via argument papers and in-class discussion.

As a Field of Study, What is Economics?
Economics is difficult.
Economics is challenging.
Economics is conceptually demanding.
### As a Field of Study, What Does Studying Economics Require?
Economics requires commitment.
Economics requires that a student study.
Economics requires understanding concepts.
Economics requires the ability to use and interpret ideas presented graphically.
Economics requires understanding schools of thought.
Economics requires the ability to differentiate between different “models.”

### As a Field of Study, Economics is Not?
Economics is not a subject that can be learned and understood by rote memorization.
Economics is not easy.

**Tentative Class Schedule**
This schedule is *subject to change at any time* based on time constraints, class interests, etc. If there is any additional reading outside of the required text, it will be provided in class.

**Textbooks:** Schweikart, David. *Against Capitalism (AC)*
**Additional Assignments:** AP – Argument Papers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 06/25</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 06/27</td>
<td>Schweikart’s critique of the noncomparative justifications of capitalism</td>
<td>AC – Ch. 1 pgs. 1 - 29</td>
<td>AP – 1</td>
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</tbody>
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**Week 2**

| M 07/02 | Continued Discussion of AC – Ch. 1 | AC – Ch. 1 pgs. 29 – 47 | AP - 2     |
| W 07/04 | Class Cancelled – PCC Closed – 4th of July Holiday |          | | |

**Week 3**

| M 07/09 | What about comparative justifications? Defining capitalism v. socialism | AC – Ch. 2 | AP – 3     |
| W 07/11 | Continued Discussion of AC – Ch. 2 | --------------|------------|

**Week 4**

| M 07/16 | Capitalism V. Socialism Issue of Efficiency | AC – Ch. 3 | AP - 4     |
| W 07/18 | Continued Discussion of AC – Ch. 3 | --------------|------------|

**Week 5**

| M 07/23 | Capitalism V. Socialism Issue of Growth | AC – Ch. 4 | AP - 5     |
Week 6
M 07/30 Capitalism V. Socialism
Issues of Liberty, Equality, Democracy, Autonomy

W 08/01 Continued Discussion of AC – Ch. 5
Midterm Exam is Due

Week 7
M 08/06 Schweikart’s critique of
Non-Laissez Faire Capitalism

W 08/08 Continued Discussion of AC – Ch. 6

Week 8
M 08/13 Transitioning from Capitalism to
Socialism (Economic Democracy)

W 08/15 Continued Discussion of AC – Ch. 7

Week 9
M 08/20 Schweikart’s critique of other forms of
Socialism.

W 08/22 Schweikart’s reflections on Marx

Grading
Take Home Midterm 50 Points
Final Paper 50 Points
Argument Papers 100 points (10 papers, worth 10 points apiece)
Total Points 200

Midterm Exam
The midterm exam will be a take home exam consisting of a series of essay questions. The questions will be related to the reading and lectures. The midterm will be handed out on July 25th and due on August 1st. The midterm will consist of three essay questions. You are requested to type one page for each question, using 12 point font and one-inch margins top, bottom, left, and right. Single space is acceptable. To answer a question it is not necessary to use an entire page to receive full credit. Midterms that appear identical will be graded as one midterm and the score will be divided among the “identical” students.

Final Paper
There is a five page final paper. The final paper requires the same formatting as described for the midterm, but use double spacing. The final paper is due on August 22nd, the last day of class. The paper topic is:
Your Conception of an Alternative to Capitalism: What would you do and how would you improve upon Schweikart’s Vision of Economic Democracy?

**Argument Papers (There are several components)**

a. Each student will be required to write ten argument papers over the course of the quarter.
b. The argument paper is to be written on a single page (single or double spaced, 12pt font) in length.
c. Each argument paper will be graded on a 10 point scale
   i. Two points for staying within the length requirement.
   ii. Two points for identifying the primary argument the author (Schweikart) seeks to critique.
   iii. Two points for identifying the author’s counter-argument.
   iv. Two points for staking one’s opinion regarding the author’s primary argument and respective concern.
   v. Two discretionary points dependent upon writing quality.
d. Please put your name at the top of your paper.
e. Argument papers influence class discussion therefore students are highly encouraged to regularly attend class.

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less Than 60%</td>
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**The Final Grade**
The student’s final grade is calculated by dividing the total points earned by the total number of points available (200 possible points) and then multiplying by 100.

**Class Policy**

1. Only in the event of a legitimate medical excuse, or other emergency, will make up exams be made available. Student must provide documentation!!!
2. If a student misses an exam without documentation, then the student will receive a ZERO for that exam!!!!!
3. Assignment/exam calendars may be changed in response to institutional, weather, or class problems.
4. Extra Credit will NOT be made available.
5. Your final grade is your final grade, no exceptions.
6. Attendance is heavily encouraged although not mandatory. Recognize, however, that the failure to attend class may potentially reduce your class participation grade and it may negatively impact your exam scores.
7. Please turn off all cell phones/no texting during class and exams.
8. No electronic devices allowed during exams, this includes calculators. All mathematical calculations must be done by hand.

9. Final exams will not be returned following the completion of the term.

10. Students are expected to respect and understand school policy towards plagiarism and cheating. See policy statement below (See also, http://www.pcc.edu/about/policy/student-rights/student-rights.pdf)

**Tutoring**

The Cascade Campus Learning Center offers free, drop-in tutoring services to currently registered PCC students with PCC–related coursework.

Tutor schedule (posted below and in Cascade TH 123) should be checked carefully for periodic changes and additions.

The Cascade Learning Center is open:

- **Monday and Thursday:** 8am to 6pm
- **Tuesdays and Wednesdays:** 8am to 5pm
- **Fridays:** 9am to 2pm
- **Saturday:** 11:30am to 1:30pm
- **Sunday:** Closed

**Americans with Disabilities**

Portland Community College shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and other applicable federal and state regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.

These acts mandate that no qualified person shall, solely by reason of disability, be denied access to, participation in, or the benefits of any program or activity operated by the College. Each qualified person shall receive reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to employment, educational opportunities, programs and activities, in the most appropriate integrated setting. The President shall develop administrative standard procedures as required to carry out this policy. The President shall be responsible for dissemination of information to College staff, students and the community regarding the College’s compliance with these acts.

**FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Actions constituting violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following:
Plagiarism: the use of another's words, ideas, data, or product without appropriate acknowledgment, such as copying another's work, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.
Cheating: the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids; or an act of deceit by which a student attempts to misrepresent academic skills or knowledge; unauthorized copying or collaboration.
Fabrication: intentional misrepresentation or invention of any information, such as falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.
Collusion: assisting another to commit an act of academic dishonesty, such as paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, taking a test or doing an assignment for someone else, or allowing someone to do these things for one's own benefit.
10 Revised 10/14/08
19.6
Academic Misconduct: the intentional violation of college policies, such as tampering with grades, misrepresenting one's identity, or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a test or any information about the test.

PENALTIES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
If a student is found guilty of violating academic integrity, any one or a combination of the following penalties may be imposed by the faculty member:
Verbal or written warning.
A grade of "F" or "NP" for the assignment, project, or examination.
The following penalty may be imposed by the faculty member only after a hearing conducted by the division dean:
A grade of "F" or "NP" for the course, overriding a student withdrawal from the course.
The Dean of Student Development may also issue the following disciplinary sanctions, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct:
Disciplinary admonition and warning.
Disciplinary probation with or without the loss of privileges for a definite period of time. The violation of the terms of the disciplinary probation or the breaking of any college rule during the probation period may be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the college.
Suspension from Portland Community College for a definite period of time. (i.e., suspension of the privilege to attend Portland Community College).
Expulsion from Portland Community College (i.e., removal of the privilege to attend Portland Community College).